



Subject: Summary Record of the 4th Meeting of the Health Information Committee, 22 November 2010, Luxembourg

1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted. Additional discussion on the future of the health information strategy was requested; it was agreed that this would be discussed as part of the following workshop.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

No comments on the draft minutes were made during the meeting. It was agreed to finalise them in writing, with any further comments being provided by 26 November.

3. HEIDI

C2 (Ms Mattila) presented the HEIDI European health wikipedia. Mr Fahy expressed his thanks to all people who were involved in setting up HEIDI and helping with the further development in C2, A4 and all experts from the EGHI meeting who had contributed.

Participants broadly welcomed the initiative. The discussion focused on the following points:

- revision of the content, which the Commission clarified will be carried out through a call for tender;
- the nature of the information provided and the responsibility of the Commission for it. The Commission's intention is to steer the process of HEIDI, but not to take responsibility for the individual content of the pages, which would remain the responsibility of the authors and editors. This would be a balance to be struck between responsibility of the institution and freedom of contribution from the outside, which would be explored as the tool developed;
- on languages, the Commission agreed with the importance of making information available in all languages so far as possible, but this clearly would not be fully possible at least at the start. The Commission was exploring the possibility of automated translation tools providing some part of the multi-language solution.

All participants were invited to visit HEIDI and sent their comments in writing to C2 after the meeting, as the pilot would be continuing.

4. UPDATES ON ONGOING HEALTH INFORMATION WORK

Update from SANCO C2 Health Information Unit

Information was provided on the basis of the written information circulated before the meeting. In discussion, the following points were raised:

- on the ECHIM joint action reported that there is good progress on the validation of indicators, a pilot data collection questionnaire was started. A point of discussion will be the future of ECHIM and the sustainability;
- on the EHES, the date of the meeting is under discussion;
- on the HLY joint action, the reduction of the original requested funding was raised. EAHC confirmed that the negotiation is underway and that the contract will be signed by the end of this year.

Update from ESTAT

ESTAT provided information regarding current status and future developments on public health data collections and new priorities in view of disability data, as well as forthcoming meetings (presentation circulated separately). Several questions from the MS were raised:

- the need for finalisation of the EHIS questionnaire as soon as possible in order to ensure national planning for both national and European surveys. The first proposal of a revised questionnaire will be discussed at the TG EHIS meeting 28-29 March next year;
- it was proposed to share the translated questionnaires well before the next survey in order to ensure good comparability of the results. One proposal was to use the CIRCA system from the first draft onwards in order to allow following the development of the questionnaire as a rolling document.

Update from EAHC

The objectives of the Agency are to sign agreements by the end of this year. All Joint Actions are on track, except the Joint Action on the IDB and Orphanet as both had a substantial budget cut; therefore project leaders have to set up new technical deliverables.

Update from OECD

OECD presented the new publication "Health at a glance", covering all 27 EU Member States, the 3 EFTA countries and Turkey. The indicators selected are mainly from the ECHI shortlist except the data on health expenditure. The official launch will be on 7 December 2010 in Brussels.

It was agreed that in the future, Member States would welcome the opportunity to comment in more detail the draft text of such reports, although in this case as this publication is mainly reporting existing data and information, no difficulties were expected.

5. WORK PLAN 2011

A short update was provided:

- in contrast to discussions at the March meeting, the HBSC would not be funded;
- and as the European Commission focus only on a few priorities for Health Information there will be only 3 areas with funding – rare diseases, cancer and health information.

It was highlighted that the Health Programme Committee took place last week where Member States discussed the work plan in detail. All participants were invited to have a look at the work plan (circulated to their national representative in the Programme Committee) for further information; comments were still (just) possible.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission proposed for the next meeting to have back-to-back meetings with EHES, ECHIM and EHSS in February or March, subject to any comments from the expert group (although no comments were made at the time).

Mr Fahy, the current Head of the Health Information Unit informed the participants that he will leave the European Commission at the end of this year. Mr Fahy thanked the members of the Expert Group on Health Information for all their support and constructive collaboration in the vital topic of health information, and wished them and his colleagues all the best for their future work.

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